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Michigan Center for Nursing releases data on nursing education programs

Results from a Michigan Center for Nursing survey of nursing education programs show nursing programs may have difficulty increasing capacity if they lack faculty and/or clinical placement sites.

- ❑ The Michigan Center for Nursing released results today from the *Survey of Nursing Education Programs: 2005-2006 School Year*. The report includes the most recent data available on the types of programs offered, their enrollment capacity, number of graduates, demographic information on students and faculty, and current issues affecting program capacity. This report is available online at www.michigancenterfornursing.org.
- ❑ In 2006 Michigan's nursing education programs graduated 4,756 nurses, an increase of more than 800 since the previous survey in 2003.
- ❑ In 2006 4,298 qualified applicants were turned away from the state's nursing programs. In most cases this was the result of not having adequate numbers of qualified faculty and/or not having enough clinical placement sites available.

Survey findings related to faculty in Michigan nursing programs show

- ❑ 42 percent of full-time faculty are 55 years of age or older;
- ❑ 14 percent of full-time faculty are expected to retire in the next three years; and
- ❑ 19 percent of full-time faculty are expected to retire in the next five years.

Nursing programs report:

- ❑ Difficulty filling faculty positions especially in specialty areas;
- ❑ Lack of enough *sites* for clinical placements for nursing students;
- ❑ Lack of adequate support systems for at-risk nursing students;
- ❑ Lack of classroom and/or laboratory facilities, equipment, and supplies for increasing program capacity;

It is evident that even if the number of graduates continues at the current level, we are barely replacing the nurses that are leaving the workforce and we will be unable to meet the increasing demands of an aging Michigan population, says Carole Stacy, Director of the Michigan Center for Nursing. We need to increase the capacity of our clinical placement sites and find ways to utilize student's time more efficiently.

Jeanette Klemczak, Michigan's Chief Nursing Executive, says that resolving the issues facing our nursing education programs will require collaboration and creativity.

Our education programs cannot meet the demand for new nursing graduates if they lack faculty, facilities and clinical placement opportunities for their students, she says. Michigan has made strides in recruiting students interested in nursing as a challenging, rewarding career. Now all of our partners our education programs, health care systems, and policymakers need to work together with a high priority to make sure the education opportunities are there so these students can become part of our nursing workforce. The urgency for action is now.

The Michigan Center for Nursing, under the auspices of the Michigan Health Council, was established in 2003, with funds from the Michigan Department of Community Health. The Michigan Center for Nursing is currently collecting and analyzing data on nursing trends, coordinating local and regional efforts to support nursing in Michigan and creating statewide partnerships to address nursing workforce issues in the state.

Public Sector Consultants Inc., a Lansing public policy research firm, conducted the survey and prepared the report for the Michigan Center for Nursing.

The full report, *Michigan Center for Nursing Survey of Nursing Education Programs: 2005-2006 School Year*, is available online at www.michigancenterfornursing.org.